

DFL Weekly SITREP (2 May 12)

Completed Events

Faculty and Cadet Participation in Cultural and Academic Events:

On 25 April, Colonel David DiMeo led a discussion at Hamilton College, New York, on the film "Syria: The Assads' Twilight." The film and discussion were sponsored by the college's Diversity Office focusing on the recent revolutions in the Middle East. Over 40 students and a dozen faculty members participated in the discussion, including the Dean of Faculty, Dr. Patrick Reynolds; The Protestant and Jewish Chaplains and leaders of the Muslim Students Association; in addition to members of the History, Foreign Language, Comparative Literature and World Politics faculty. This was the last in a series of four film events this semester. Previous meetings had featured discussions of Egypt, Iran and Tunisia and were hosted by faculty from Colgate, Hamilton and Syracuse.

Future Events

On 3 May, 82 of DFL's majors, across seven languages, are presenting projects as part of West Point's Projects Day. The presentations will take place on the fourth floor of Washington Hall and will showcase the cadets' abilities to integrate their knowledge of language and culture with other aspects of the curriculum and their 47-month experience at the Academy. With topics ranging from U.S. efforts to partner with Central Asian allies to counter the narcotics trade in the region to U.S. options for political and military engagement in post-revolution Egypt, DFL's cadets have analyzed complex real-world issues and will use these briefs to lay out the complexity of the issues, discuss anticipated challenges and opportunities, and propose viable responses. DFL expects the following visitors, who will observe the projects and interact with the cadets:

-German: LTC (R) Holger Bernhardt (German Army), Former German Army Liaison to the Superintendent. LTC(R) Bernhardt will receive presentation on German Perspectives of Current and Post-OEF military. Cadets will employ the German perspective in assessing and comparing issues common to the American and German militaries.

-Portuguese: GEN Ítalo Fortes Avena (Brazilian Army); COL Valdomiro Alves Fagundes (Brazilian Air Force); LTC Carlos André Coronha Macedo (Brazilian Navy)

-Russian: COL Gregory Wright, Chief, START/Nuclear Division, On-Site Inspection, Defense Threat Reduction Agency

-Spanish: Mr. Enrique Gil, Spanish Consular Official and International Security Expert